IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A control method for a magnetic disk drive including a̲ magnetic disk ~~media~~ medium,a slider mounting thereon a magnetic head facing said magnetic disk ~~media~~ medium, support members for supporting said slider, an actuator for rotatably supporting said support members, an electronic circuit for controlling drive of said actuator and signal processing, and a holding member for holding said slider, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a̲ setting step for setting a parameter for driving said actuator in each of plural stepwise movements of said slider following a shape of said holding member;

a̲n unload step for starting a̲ process for holding said slider on said holding member while reading information from said magnetic disk ~~media~~ medium through said magnetic head, before causing said slider to move from said magnetic disk medium onto said holding member; and

a̲ load step for causing said magnetic head to read the information from said magnetic disk ~~media~~ medium while following said holding member, ~~after starting said process for~~ before causing said slider to land from said holding member onto said magnetic disk ~~media~~ medium.

2.   (Currently Amended)   The control method according to Claim 1, wherein

said process for holding said slider ~~following~~ on said holding member is divided into two or more ~~steps~~ stepwise movements in advance, and at the end of movement of said slider in each of said two or more ~~steps~~ stepwise movements, the value of a voltage or a current for driving said actuator is stored.

3.   (Currently Amended)   The control method according to Claim 1, wherein

said process for holding said slider ~~following~~ on said holding member is divided into two or more ~~steps~~ stepwise movements in advance, and the value of a voltage or a current for driving said actuator is constant in each or said two or more ~~steps~~ stepwise movements.

4.   (Currently Amended) A magnetic disk drive, comprising:

a magnetic disk ~~media~~ medium;

a slider mounting thereon a magnetic head facing said magnetic disk ~~media~~ medium;

support members for supporting said slider;

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an actuator for rotatably supporting said support members; and

an electronic circuit for controlling drive of said actuator and signal processing, the electronic circuit having

a function of setting a parameter for driving said actuator in each of ~~said~~ two or more ~~steps~~ <u>stepwise movements</u> for moving said slider while following <u>a shape of</u> said holding member<u>,</u> and

a function of performing a mechanical load/unload operation smoothly using said set parameter[[s]].